<A1>PROOF of Story '#629' Requested by CASTRO ($LSRV) on 1/07/92 8:35:57

Entered 1/07/92 at 8:35 By
Lines 60

SACRAMENTO BEE
DATE: FRI JAN 03 92
PAGE: TK18 EDITION: METRO FINAL SECTION: TICKET
LENGTH: MEDIUM
PHOTO(S) 1 GRAPHICS:
DOCUMENT: #629 ART FILE:
BYLINE/SOURCE: Philip Wuntch Dallas Morning News
DATELINE:

HD: GARRISON'S CASE WEAK, COSTNER SAYS

LD: In Oliver Stone's ""JFK,'' Kevin Costner plays crusading attorney Jim Garrison, who challenged the Warren Commission's report on the John F. Kennedy assassination by bringing New Orleans businessman Clay Shaw to trial on a conspiracy charge.

Unlike Stone, Costner -- a friend of President Bush -- is reluctant to discuss politics.

""My politics vary on different issues,'' says Costner, looking casually elegant in a dark green Armani shirt, tan boots and dark blue jeans. ""I'm not an ambulance chaser at all. When I was in college, my brother was in Vietnam. The most daring thing I did in college was listen to Mort Sahl. Since then, I like to think I've expanded. Anytime anyone writes something, it should cause you to think. I'd like to think that all my whole life, I'd take in new ideas.''

Yet Costner says that had he been on the jury of the Shaw trial, he probably would have voted not guilty.

""I just don't think Jim Garrison had a strong enough case,'' he says.

When Costner speaks, he never raises his voice. When he shows anger, it takes the form of disappointment rather than rage. Such emotional restraint was one of the things that appealed to Stone, whose films have not been known for their conservative style.

""I like the low-key aspect of Kevin's personality,'' Stone says. ""I would never have cast him as Jim Morrison, but "JFK' isn't "The Doors.' My films have been accused of being didactic, and I thought Kevin's laid-back personality would keep "JFK' from seeming didactic.''

In any event, Stone was eager to get Costner for the movie. He sent him the first draft of the screenplay while the actor was in the middle of the trouble-plagued filming of ""Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves.''

""I was tired and not particularly happy while making "Robin Hood,' '' Costner says. ""I had just finished filming "Dances With Wolves,' and I had promised Cindy (his wife) that we would take time off after "Robin Hood.' ''

He passed on the first draft of ""JFK,'' finding it ""information-dense, thick and a little confusing.''

""But Oliver, being Oliver, crossed the ocean to talk to me,'' Costner says ""He brought a second script with him, and it was much better. Still, I didn't think it was an option for Cindy and me. We had promised each other this time together. But then she read the script and felt I had to do it. She said we'd take time off after "JFK.' ''

Costner is keenly aware that some people believe that the upright hero of ""JFK'' bears little resemblance to the real Jim Garrison.

""I knew early on that the film was never intended as a biography of Jim Garrison,'' he says. ""There are a lot more sides of him than you see in the movie, and some of them are not flattering. But I think Oliver hints in the

screenplay at infidelity and ambitiousness. But Garrison still comes off heroic, and I play him as written.

""I don't even look like Jim Garrison. Oliver felt only Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby should look like they really looked.''

Costner, fresh from winning Oscars for directing and producing ""Dances With Wolves,'' is one of the most sought-after personalities working in films. ""Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves'' earned the actor some of the worst notices of his career yet proved a hearty box-office success. However, he seems aware that he has his detractors.

""I am surprised that "Robin Hood' became such an issue of debate,'' he says. ""It was strictly an entertainment story and, when all was said and done, it was a good movie. It smacked of fun. It advanced the genre. I'm not the least bit ashamed of it.''

CA: As New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, Kevin Costner secretly meets with Colonel X, played by Donald Sutherland, in "JFK.' 010392PC1TK18